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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092213

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR TOON AND AMBASSADOR LEONARD ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS:UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET UN OFFICIAL

1. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL ARKADIY SHEVCHENKO MET WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN AND SOVIET PERMREP TROYANOV-SKIY IN THE LAW OFFICES OF ERNEST GROSS IN NEW YORK ON APRIL 9. GROSS AND EUR/SOV DIRECTOR GARRISON WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. DOBRYNIN AND TROYANOVSKIY SAID THEY CONTINUED TO REGARD SHEVCHENKO AS UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL. THEY CAME TO TALK TO HIM AS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES, TO FIND OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
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3. SHEVCHENKO CITED A LETTER HE HAD WRITTEN TO BREZHNEV UNDER COVER OF A LETTER TO TROYANOVSKIY (NOT YET RECEIVED, ACCORDING TO THE LATTER) WHICH COMMENTED ON ABUSES BY THE KGB AND BETRAYAL OF THE REVOLUTION.

4. DOBRYNIN SAID IT WAS STRANGE HIS VIEWS HAD CHANGED SO

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SUDDENLY. HE HAD OVER 20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE, HELD A SERIES OF INCREASINGLY RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS AND HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN. WHAT HAD CAUSED HIS SUDDEN CHANGE OF MIND?

5. SHEVCHENKO BY WAY OF EXAMPLE CITED AN INSTANCE WHEN SMUN SENT SOMEONE OVER TO TRY TO GET INTO HIS APARTMENT AND ASSERTED THAT HE HAS BEEN FOLLOWED AND WATCHED BY SOVIET PERSONNEL WHILE AT THE UN.

6. AFTER SHEVCHENKO SAID HE DID NOT WISH FURTHER DISCUSSION OF HIS PRIVATE AFFAIRS, DOBRYNIN AND TROYANOVSKIY READ THROUGH THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF SHEVCHENKO'S LETTER TO BREZHNEV AND COVERING LETTER. DOBRYNIN SAID IT BORE "A CERTAIN STAMP WHICH FIGURES IN THE USA." SHEVCHENKO SAID HE REFUSED TO LISTEN TO SUCH REMARKS AND LEFT THE MEETING.

7. AFTER SHEVCHENKO'S DEPARTURE, DOBRYNIN AND TROYANOVSKIY MADE A PRESENTATION APPARENTLY FOR THE RECORD. THEY SAID THEY WERE NOT THERE TO BARGAIN, BUT TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ABOUT HIS CONDITION. THEIR COMBINED JUDGMENT, TO BE REPORTED TO MOSCOW, WAS THAT SHEVCHENKO WAS OBVIOUSLY UNDER PRESSURE--AND NOT ONLY PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE--AND WAS NOT BEHAVING NORMALLY, IN THE JUDGMENT OF HIS TWO COLLEAGUES WHO HAD KNOWN HIM FOR MANY YEARS.

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8. GROSS MADE A FIRM STATEMENT THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT SHEVCHENKO WAS ACTING ON HIS OWN VOLITION.

9. TROYANOVSKIY GAVE GROSS LETTERS FOR SHEVCHENKO FROM HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER.

10. GROSS PROPOSED THAT HE BE THE SOLE CHANNEL FOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN HIS CLIENT AND THE SOVIETS. DOBRYNIN REFUSED, SAYING THAT MATTERS AFFECTING THE WELFARE OF A SOVIET CITIZEN (HE ASSUMED SHEVCHENKO HAD NOT RENOUNCED HIS CITIZENSHIP, AND GROSS CONFIRMED THIS) IS A MATTER FOR THE SOVIET GOVNMENT TO TAKE UP WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. HE INDICATEDTHAT THE SOVIETS WOULD ALSO DEAL WITH GROSS ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE MATTER, AND THUS THERE WOULD BE PARALLEL CHANNELS.

11. EARLIER IN THE DAY, SHEVCHENKO'S WIFE LEFT THE U.S. BY AIR, AFTER A BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH U.S. OFFICIALS TO ESTABLISH THAT SHE WAS LEAVING OF HER OWN VOLITION. THE SOVIET SIDE COOPERATED IN ARRANGING THE INTERVIEW.

VANCE

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